

Brüssel, den 16. Dezember 2009

## Kommission zeichnet Bürgerprojekte mit „Goldenen Sternen“ aus

*Nach Abschluss eines Auswahlverfahrens zeichnet die Europäische Kommission heute in Brüssel acht Bürgerbeteiligungsprojekte mit den „Goldenen Sternen der aktiven europäischen Bürgerschaft“ aus. Der Preisverleihungszeremonie geht eine EU-Konferenz voraus, die Gelegenheit zur Diskussion über das Thema Bürgerbeteiligung durch Freiwilligendienst und die Bedeutung eines solchen Engagements für Europa bietet. Diese Konferenz, zu der Teilnehmer aus Praxis, Politik und Hochschulwesen zusammenkommen, bildet den Auftakt zur Mobilisierung der Bürger im Hinblick auf das Europäische Jahr der Freiwilligentätigkeit 2011.*

*„Die Projekte, die wir heute mit den „Goldenen Sternen“ auszeichnen, veranschaulichen die entscheidende Rolle, die die europäischen Bürger bei der Schaffung eines gemeinsamen europäischen Raumes spielen. Eines der wichtigsten Ziele der neuen Europäischen Kommission ist die weitere Stärkung der EU-Bürgerschaft und der Bürgermitwirkung. Die europäischen Bürger sollen noch mehr Gelegenheit bekommen, den künftigen Kurs Europas mitzubestimmen. Die heute vorgestellten Beispiele stehen für das in diesem Bereich vorhandene Potenzial“,* erklärte Maroš Šefčovič, EU-Kommissar für allgemeine und berufliche Bildung, Kultur und Jugend.

Mit den *Goldenen Sternen* werden alljährlich Projekte ausgezeichnet, die vom Programm *Europa für Bürgerinnen und Bürger* unterstützt wurden. Ziel dieses Programms ist es, die Bürgerinnen und Bürger für das europäische Einigungswerk zu interessieren und darin einzubinden. Seit seinem Start 2007 hat das Programm jährlich rund **eine Million direkte Teilnehmer** mobilisiert und ihnen die Möglichkeit gegeben, über ihre **gemeinsame Identität** nachzudenken, indem sie kulturelle Unterschiede und Gemeinsamkeiten mit Menschen aus anderen Teilen Europas entdecken. Mit Städtepartnerschaften, europaweiten zivilgesellschaftlichen Projekten und Erinnerungsprojekten trägt das Programm *Europa für Bürgerinnen und Bürger* intensiv zur Schaffung eines **europäischen öffentlichen Raums** und zu einer aktiven europäischen Bürgerschaft bei.

Mit ihrer politischen Initiative zum Europäischen Jahr 2011 reagiert die Europäische Kommission auf den starken Wunsch der zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen in Europa, auf das enorme Potenzial der Freiwilligentätigkeit hinzuweisen und gleichzeitig den 10. Jahrestag des Internationalen Jahres der Freiwilligenarbeit zu begehen, das die Vereinten Nationen 2001 organisiert hatten. Das Europäische Jahr wird das Bewusstsein für die Bedeutung des Freiwilligendienstes stärken, die Anerkennung von Freiwilligen fördern, die Debatte und den Austausch guter Verfahren unterstützen, um schließlich den politischen Rahmen der Freiwilligentätigkeit zu verbessern und günstigere Bedingungen für die Freiwilligentätigkeit in der EU zu schaffen.

**Weitere Informationen** über die Verleihungszeremonie und das Programm der Konferenz: <http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship>  
Anmeldung: <http://www.europe-for-citizens.eu/>  
Nachstehend finden Sie eine Übersicht über die ausgezeichneten Projekte.

## Appendix:

### PROJECTS' SUMMARIES

#### Town Twinning Projects

**Municipality of Monza (Italy) for the citizens' meeting "The European Value of the Exchange of Experiences" with partners from the Czech Republic**

Activities focused on involving young people in the town twinning programme, encouraging mobility in Europe and highlighting the significance of European citizenship for the young generation of Europeans. The meeting also addressed the issue of female entrepreneurship in particular and equal opportunities in general. Over 3, 000 people participated in the town twinning meeting.

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**Municipality of Hamrun (Malta) for the citizens' meeting "European Citizens United through Culture and History" with partners from IT.**

The central part of this meeting was a celebration of Europe Day. The cultural and historical links between the two municipalities were highlighted, which contributed to the strengthening of shared identity and the feeling of belonging together, not only within the two municipalities concerned but also in the wider European Union context. Events included art exhibitions, concerts and street festivals. More than 150 citizens participated.

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**Municipality of Gyomaendröd (Hungary) for the citizens' meeting "Women's Participation in Political Life" with partners from Romania, Germany, Poland and Slovakia.**

A conference was held which provided an opportunity to share experiences and exchange ideas on how to overcome possible obstacles women face in their political career. A rich cultural programme was also organised offering the participants a chance to learn about their respective cultural traditions and to celebrate the cultural diversity which is characteristic of Europe. Around 100 citizens participated in the conference. This meeting helped to highlight the important subject of women's participation in democratic life. Perspectives and experiences from the local level enriched the debate and formed a good basis for future deliberations and actions in this area.

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**Municipality of Rijeka (Croatia) for the thematic networking project "Emigration – Yesterday and Today" with partners from Bulgaria and Slovenia.**

Organisation of a debate tournament on immigration in today's Europe. The event included thematic lectures and a visit to the City Museum exhibition on emigration from central Europe to America in the period 1880-1915 as well as team-building games, entertainment programmes and a reception at City Hall. The issue was put into a historical context of mass emigration from Europe to the United States in the period from 1815 to 1930 when over 50 million Europeans left their homes. Almost 5 million came from central Europe (the territory of Austria-Hungary), representing the fourth largest source of emigration after Great Britain, Italy and Ireland.

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## **Civil Society Projects**

***Re-Life: New Tasks in an Enlarged European Union, an Italian project of the INSIEME società cooperativa sociale, with partners from Austria and Croatia.***

The main focus of this project was to offer European citizens from different generations and walks of life an opportunity to reflect, discuss and debate on the lifestyles which facilitate social cohesion, sustainable development and respect for the environment. A European conference was organised at the end of the project to disseminate the results of the activities and to discuss experiences and best practices. Around 500 people were directly involved in the activities of the project and around 6,000 were indirectly targeted by the project through the brochures published by the project organisers and the website developed in the course of the project.

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***A citizens' Europe for all, disabled people on the move, an Irish project of the European Blind Union, with partners from Italy, Slovakia, Austria and Malta.***

The peak of this project was the conference "A citizens' Europe for All, Disabled People on the Move" held in Dublin. The conference addressed citizenship from the perspective of equal treatment and non discrimination, especially with regard to blind and partially sighted people. The conference resulted in the adoption of the EBU Dublin Declaration aimed at raising European Union decision makers' awareness of the aspirations and needs of persons with visual impairment. As a result, a new website ([www.inclusiveeurope.eu](http://www.inclusiveeurope.eu)) has been developed providing accessible information to the visually impaired.

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## Remembrance Projects

***Voix Étouffées du IIIème Reich*, a French project of the organisation Forum Voix Étouffées, with partners from Germany, Austria, Romania, Poland and the Czech Republic.**

The activities of the project contributed to commemorating and raising awareness about composers that were victims of the Nazi regime and their lost music in order to highlight the negative consequences of the Holocaust and Nazi propaganda in the field of culture. There were concerts, pedagogical activities, information campaigns, roundtables and workshops. Around 1,000 students took part in various pedagogical activities. Around 5,000 people attended the concerts performed during the duration of the project.

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**Ausstellungsrealisierung - Erweiterte Dauerausstellung: "Ich bin als Mensch geboren und will als Mensch hier raus!" Der Geschlossene Jugendwerkhof Torgau in Erziehungssystem der DDR** ("I was born a human being and I will leave from here as a human being!" Juvenile detention centre Torgau in the education system of the former German Democratic Republic), a German project of the **Initiativgruppe Geschlossener Jugendwerkhof Torgau e.V.** with partners from the United Kingdom.

The project contributed to the development of a permanent exhibition in a former juvenile detention centre which is in Torgau in the former German Democratic Republic. Over 4,000 young people passed through the centre between 1964 and 1989 to be "re-educated". They had not committed any criminal offence nor did a legal warrant for their detention exist. Strict discipline and rigidly planned daily routines were enforced leading to unbearable mental pressure. The exhibition uses modern means such as multimedia presentations including photographs, documents and audiovisual materials to allow the visitors to learn about both the facts and the emotions behind this particular aspect of Europe's history.

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